

*Personnel*MNC-1026
8 December 1981

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Chief, Operations Group

Dear Jerry,

Here is my promised plea for additional personnel based on events of the past six months. I'll also append a plea to the FY-84 projections. I am not about to set myself up as a prophet of Middle Eastern-Greek events, but I do feel that it is likely that the pot will continue to be stirred sufficiently to warrant an additional teleop and editor here. Our wordage in November, which was a relatively quiet month in our coverage area, kept fairly high, with 536,000 publishable and 672,000 total words filed. I expect a normal decline in wordage for the December-February period, but cannot see us ever returning to the sleepy days of yesteryear.

The average monthly publishable wordage output of Nicosia Bureau during the six-month period June-November was 588,000 words (av. total wordage 719,000). It ranged from a low of 450,000 (552,000) in June to 683,000 (813,000) in September. Highest total wordage, which I find more accurately reflects the bureau work load, was in October with 827,000 words.

We got through the past six or seven months by taking up some undoubted slack and when that was gone by asking our employees to rally round with flexible schedules, overtime and working undermanned shifts. Thanks to a generally very professional and highly cooperative staff, we handled the load fairly well. However, our employees have made it known in definite terms that they are not happy about working on such terms indefinitely. They feel that they should be able to lead more normal lives, and while they are used to being at our beck and call they feel we ought to call less often. I agree with them that the pressure under which they worked for much of the summer and fall was too much to expect of them for the long haul.

With the new Arabic position and without additional coverage responsibilities we are okay in the Arabic section. If Cairo television or Libya get thrown onto our plate without significant tradeoffs, we'll need additional personnel. Since these decisions aren't yet known, I am not requesting additional monitors at this time. The Greek team is also large enough to handle the general run of work, though they would find it difficult to handle an extended crisis.

The teleops are usually subjected to either feast or famine, but I believe that we need one additional operator. An additional slot would allow us to keep two operators on duty almost all of the time even in the summer

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vacation period. This past summer, we often had much priority traffic and seldom more than one teleop to type it. Over the past six months we averaged about 16 hours of O/T in the section per payperiod to cover extended hours and to assist when the workload was especially heavy.

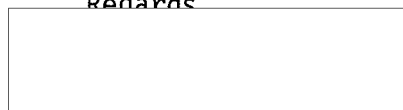
Re editors, I would like once again to note that this bureau has a constant flow of priority traffic and is frequently engaged in monitoring more than one major crisis at once. Fortunately, the editorial staff has been very good, but they have been under a very heavy strain and have had to spend virtually all of their time just grinding out copy. The deputy chief has had little time off of the desk, and most of that has been when he came in on his own time. All of the editors have had to do more "quick and dirty" editing than is advisable. And there has been no time for informal editorial instruction and little for background reading. [] file review has tended to keep all on their toes, but [] are not all that common these days. In the past two months things have been especially hectic with extended hours making overtime mandatory. We have been averaging 20 hours staff O/T in the editorial section per payperiod for the past seven payperiods (which are the only statistics still available in the bureau). An additional editor would allow us to reduce O/T, allow the deputy some time to think and plan, and allow us more shifts with staff editors serving together and able to discuss mutual problems.

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We have been trying to pare our file where possible, and have had some success. However, much correspondence with DRD and AG has produced the opinion that our filing is pretty much on target. Our publication rate is still not high, but August and September were about five percentage points better compared to the average than were June and July. Nothing more recent is available here. A lot of our copy just has to be filed for wire and BBC purposes.

Today is the day I tell the staff about our classification results. I almost wish I were back in HQ.

Regards



Chief, Nicosia Bureau

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P.S. None of the foregoing is meant to imply that the need for positions here is so great that one should be taken from Bangkok, which I have recently come to recognize has the highest possible priority in future FBIS plans.

STATISTICS

Publication Rate:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>ITEMS FILED</u>	<u>ITEMS PUB</u>	<u>WORDAGE FILED</u>	<u>WORDAGE PUB</u>	<u>% ITEMS PUB</u>	<u>% BELOW AVERAGE</u>
JUN	4th	8th	6th	8th	12th	13.4
JUL	3rd	6th	4th	7th	12th	14.8
AUG	3rd	6th	4th	5th	9th	8.4
SEP	3rd	5th	3rd	5th	10th	10.4

Wordage:

	TOTAL	PUBLISHABLE
June	552	450
July	759	639
August	692	571
Sept	813	683
Oct	827	651
Nov	672	536

Six month O/T Hours (Non-Staff):

TOTAL	GREEK	ARABIC	COMMO
1187	276	501	202